

## Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:SOPN, CS, US

SUBJECT: VESCO CASE

1. FYI: THE FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF PERTINENT PORTION  
OF DAILY NEWS BRIEFING HELD THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1977.

2. Q. HODDING, THERE WAS A STORY THIS MORNING ON A  
JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TRY FOR THE THIRD TIME TO EXTRADITE  
VESCO. WHAT IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ROLE IN THAT? AND  
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ABOUT THAT/

A. WELL, SPECIFICALLY, WHAT ARE YOU ASKING ME? I'M  
PREPARED TO DISCUSS THE VESCO QUESTION, BUT WHERE DO YOU  
WANT ME TO START?

3. Q. IS THE STATE DEPARTMENT INVOLVED IN THAT AND WHAT  
ARE THE CHANGES OF GETTING HIM OUT?

A. WE HAVE TWO LEVELS OF POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT. ONE IS  
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TO OFFER OUR OPINION AS TO WHETHER OR NOT AN EFFORT TO  
EXTRADITE MR. VESCO WOULD BE IN THE FOREIGN POLICY  
INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES. THE SECOND IS, IF THE

JUSTICE DEPARTMENT DECIDES THAT EXTRADITION IS A LEGALLY  
FEASIBLE AND POSSIBLE CHOICE, THEN WE WOULD BE THE DE-  
PARTMENT THAT HAS TO REQUEST EXTRADITION. TO SPEAK TO

THE QUESTION YOU ARE GOING TO RAISE NEXT, THE STATE DEPARTMENT DOES BELIEVE, FROM A STRICTLY FOREIGN POLICY POINT OF VIEW, THAT MR. VESCO SHOULD BE EXTRADITED. BUT IT IS THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSIBILITY, NOT OURS, TO DECIDE THE QUESTION OF THE LEGAL BASIS FOR EXTRA-DITION AS TO WHETHER IT DOES SEEM FEASIBLE. WE DON'T SEEK TO ENCROACH ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

4. Q. COULD YOU EXPLAIN WHAT YOU MEAN BY A FOREIGN POLICY ANGLE?

A. SIMPLY THAT WE THINK IT WOULD BE IN THE INTEREST OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES -- THE COUNTRY IN WHICH MR. VESCO RESIDES AND THE COUNTRY OF HIS ORIGIN.

5. Q. ARE YOU SAYING HE IS CURRENTLY CONTRIBUTING TO POOR RELATIONS, THEN, BETWEEN US AND HIS HOST COUNTRY?

A. I WOULD SAY THAT IT IS SIMPLY OUR DETERMINATION THAT THE LEGAL QUESTION OF MR. VESCO IS ONE WHICH DOES HAVE IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR RELATIONS AND WE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM EXTRADITED.

6. HAVE YOU CONSULTED WITH THE COSTA RICAN GOVERNMENT ON THIS ISSUE?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ABOUT DIRECT CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN US AND THE COSTA RICANS ON IT.

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7. Q. YOU'RE BASING THIS JUDGMENT, THEN, ON JUST A UNILATERAL ASSESSMENT OF EXCHANGE WITHOUT TALKING IT OVER WITH THEM?

A. NO. I'M NOT SAYING THAT. I SIMPLY SAID I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM.

8. Q. DO YOU THINK THE SECRETARY OR ANYONE IN THE PARTY MIGHT DISCUSS WITH THE COSTA RICANS AT GRENADA?

A. I DON'T KNOW. AGAIN, I DON'T HAVE THAT AS BEING A POSSIBLE TOPIC OF BILATERALS.

9. Q. DID MRS. CARTER TALK ABOUT THIS ISSUE IN HER MEETING WITH THE COSTA RICANS?

A. THE MATTER DID NOT COME UP IN HER CONVERSATIONS WITH COSTA RICA.

10. Q. ARE THERE EXISTING TREATIES OR AGREEMENTS THAT WOULD PROVIDE FOR EXTRADITION FROM COSTA RICA?

A. WAIT A MINUTE. AT THIS POINT, I'M GOING TO ASK THAT THE LEGAL QUESTIONS ON THE PROCESS OF EXTRADITION GO TO THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT BECAUSE I CAN'T WALK VERY FAR WITH YOU ON THIS.

11. FROM A FOREIGN POLICY POINT OF VIEW --

A. BUT INSOFAR AS THAT PART OF THE PROCEDURE GOES, WHAT THEIR DETERMINATION IS, OR WHAT THE LEGAL POSSIBILITIES OF EXTRADITION ARE, I WOULD RATHER YOU ASK THOSE OF JUSTICE.

12. Q. WE DO HAVE AN EXTRADITION AGREEMENT WITH COSTA RICA, THOUGH.  
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A. WE DO. BUT HOW IT WORKS AND UNDER WHAT TERMS IT WORKS, I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO INTO.

13. Q. IS THIS A NEW DECISION ON THE PART OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT?

A. I DON'T KNOW THAT THIS IS A NEW DECISION. IT IS A POSITION THAT WE HAVE RECOMMENDED. I DON'T KNOW HOW FAR BACK IT GOES, MURREY.

14. Q. DO YOU KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED THAT YOU HAVE TRANSMITTED A NEW DECISION?

A. IT IS SIMPLY THAT VIEW. THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT, HOWEVER, WHILE THAT IS OBVIOUSLY SOMETHING WHICH THEY ARE INTEREST IN LEARNING, HAS TO DECIDE THIS CASE ON THE BASIS OF THEIR BEST DETERMINATION OF THE LEGAL RAMIFICATIONS OF AN EXTRADITION PROCEEDING.

"

15. Q. HAS JUSTICE GIVEN ANY INDICATION AS TO WHEN THEY MIGHT COME TO SUCH A DECISION?

A. WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO OFFER ON THAT. I THINK JUSTICE OUGHT TO BE THE ONE TO ASK. AS OF RIGHT NOW, THEY HAVE NOT REQUESTED US TO SEEK MR. VESCO'S EXTRADITION.

16. Q. I UNDERSTAND YOUR RELUCTANCE TO DISCUSS VESCO SPECIFICALLY, BUT HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT COME TO SOME

GENERAL POINT OF VIEW ABOUT SUCH SITUATIONS THAT YOU  
COULD ELABORATE FOR US, OR IS IT JUST THE VESCO THING  
WHICH CREATES A FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM?

A. NO. I THINK THAT I DON'T HAVE A GENERAL ELABORATION  
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ON THE ISSUES OF EXTRADITION.

17. Q. NO, I MEANT OF VESCO-TYPE SITUATIONS.

A. WELL, I DON'T KNOW ANY OTHER.

18. Q. APART FROM VESCO, WHAT IS IT ABOUT VESCO THAT  
CAUSES A FOREIGN POLICY PROBLEM?

A. I THINK I AM NOT PREPARED TO GO MUCH FURTHER THAN  
THIS. IT IS JUST THE CONSIDERATION OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF STATE THAT OUR RELATIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO COUNTRIES  
WOULD BE IMPROVED IF IN FACT WE PROCEED.

19. HODDING, WHAT HAS HAPPENED OVER THE LAST THREE  
YEARS TO CHANGE THIS, SINCE I UNDERSTAND THAT IN 1973  
COSTA RICA DENIED A REQUEST AND SO DID BAHAMAS BEFORE  
THAT. WHAT HAS CHANGED BETWEEN THEN AND NOW?

A. A REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION.

20. YES.

A. WELL, IN THE FIRST PLACE, I DON'T HAVE A REQUEST  
FOR EXTRADITION BEFORE ME. THAT DETERMINATION IS STILL  
IN THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT.

21. Q. VESCO IS SCHEDULED TO BECOME A CITIZEN SOME-  
TIME THIS MONTH IN COSTA RICA. HOW WOULD THAT AFFECT  
EXTRADITION?

A. TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, THAT IS A GOOD QUESTION  
WHICH RAISES AN ISSUE WHICH ISN'T AS SIMPLY AS YOU  
SAY. I MEAN, THAT QUESTION OF WHETHER HE IS GOING  
TO BE HOME FREE IS FAIRLY COMPLEX. THE LEGAL ISSUES  
ARE VERY COMPLEX. AND AGAIN, ON THAT QUESTION, I  
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WOULD REFER YOU TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT LAWYERS.

22. Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDED THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WITH ANY SORT OF A MEMORANDUM SETTING FORTH THE FOREIGN POLICY?

A. THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR VIEWS. I AM NOT SURE IN WHAT FORM THAT HAS GONE OVER THERE.

23. Q. YOU HAVE MADE THEM AWARE OF OUR FOREIGN POLICY?

A. THEY ARE AWARE OF OUR VIEWS.

24. Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT ASKED COSTA RICA NOT TO GRANT HIM CITIZENSHIP OR TO DELAY GRANTING HIM CITIZENSHIP?

A. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT.

25. Q. HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT INFORMALLY TOLD COSTA RICA THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE HIM BACK?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT EITHER. I DON'T THINK THAT IN ANY CASE THAT KIND OF EXCHANGE WOULD BE SOMETHING THAT I WOULD BE ABLE TO OFFER YOU.

26. Q. CAN YOU TAKE ANOTHER QUESTION, ANOTHER SUBJECT?

27. Q. ONE MORE ON THAT. COULD YOU TRY TO GIVE US SOME KIND OF A TIME FRAME FOR THIS THING? IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME, AT ANY RATE. DID THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT RECENTLY ASK YOU FOR A THRESHOLD OPINION ON THE FOREIGN POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THIS AND WAS THAT OPINION RECENTLY TRANSMITTED?

A. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM ON THIS QUESTION ON UNCLASSIFIED

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NUMEROUS OCCASIONS, NOT JUST ON ONE OCCASION, APPARENTLY. I JUST THINK I AM GOING TO HAVE TO TAKE YOU TO JUSTICE ON THAT AS TO HOW THE INITIATION TOOK PLACE.

28. Q. AND WHEN.

A. AN WHEN.

29. Q. BUT ALSO THE QUESTION DOES REST RIGHT HERE IN THE DEPARTMENT.

A. WHAT QUESTIONS?

30. HAS THIS ADMINISTRATION MADE A NEW STAND ON THE  
VESCO MATTER AS DISTINCT FROM THE PREVIOUS ADMINISTRA-  
TION? I FRANKLY DON'T HAVE A CLUE WHAT THE ANSWER TO  
THAT IS.

A. I THINK, MURREY, I CAN TRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER  
THERE IS SOME CHANGE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDA-  
TIONS. SINCE THERE ISN'T A RECOMMENDATION COME DOWN YET  
FROM JUSTICE, I AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DEAL WITH THAT.  
BUT I CAN TRY TO FIND OUT WHETHER WE HAVE REVERSED OUR  
POSITION, OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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